Contrary To Superstition, Oysters Edible Year-Round

Contrary to superstition, oysters are edible in all 12 months. Hot weather shipping problems helped to build the R-month legend. The taboo remains appropriate even with modern refrigerated transportation, however, since May to August is the natural spawning season. The adult female oyster's feat of discharging as many as a half-billion eggs in this season leaves her a bit too thinned down for prime succulence.

Shad were surpassed only by cod and salmon among U.S. commercial fisheries before the turn of the century. Overfishing, industrial pollution, and high dams barring the way to upstream spawning grounds have forced shad far down on the list now. Although the Chesapeake Bay still accounts for one fish out of three, the total catch is less than one-fifth that of 19th century peak seasons.

Crabs, alewives, rockfish, croakers, sea trout, and menhaden all figure importantly in Chesapeake Bay commerce. Like oysters and shad, they are studied for rehabilitation purposes by such organizations as the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory at Solomons, Maryland, and the Chesapeake Bay Institute, Baltimore.

Telephone companies report a big business this year in Christmas telephone calls.

Appomattox is a growing town.

Dial 2811 with Personals.

Pearls and Pipelines

Iranian nationalists have laid verbal claim to Bahrein, oil-rich island across the Persian Gulf where Arabian shows put in bearing huge milky pearls from the sea floor. Persia has been claiming Bahrein without avail since 1783, however. An independent sheikdom under British protection, Bahrein is the site of an American oil field and refinery. Saudi Arabia's oil wells were joined with the Mediterranean coast in 1950 by the competition of Tapline, a 1,068-mile, 30-inch pipeline across the burning Arabian desert. American and British engineers proposed to build next an even bigger "Middle East Inch" (34-36 inches in diameter) from Abadan to the Mediterranean. Iran's oil would thus be linked by a tunnel of steel with the Western world—if the hot desert wind from Tehran does not blow the project away.

Color Blindness

Most common in color blindness is the confusion of red and green, which may affect as many as 20 men and 5 women per thousand population. One person out of several thousand has trouble with yellows and blues. Very rare is complete color-blindness, in which everything is seen as black, gray and white. Not more than a hundred such cases have been reported in the scientific literature. Even a partially color-blind person usually learns to name colors properly a great deal of the time. For example, one with red-green deficiency may learn by experience that what he sees as dull dark yellow is really red, while a light yellowish-gray is what other people call green.

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COMING ATTRACTIONS

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Sugarfoot

ALSO

State Penitentiary

Monday and Tuesday, December 31, Jan. 1

Kirk Douglas - Virginia Mayo - Walter Brennan in

Along The Great Divide

Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 2 and 3

Donald O'Conner - Piper Laurie in

Francis Goes To The Races

Medina Mosque Is Younger Building than White House

According to tradition, Mohammed journeyed north from Mecca to the region of Yathrib's oasis, where he loosed his camel to wander unguided until it stopped and knelt. There the mosque was built. Disciples renamed Yathrib Madinat-al-Nabi, meaning City of the Prophet, now varied to Medina.

The original house of worship has been rebuilt several times. No existing relics of previous structures bear proof of use earlier than 1305. The present Great Mosque is actually newer than the White House in Washington and replaces an earlier mosque which was destroyed by fire only a century ago.

Though somewhat crowded by other buildings on its south side, the mosque stands out gracefully from most angles of approach. Its minarets are shapely, its dome a restful, dull green. Dominant construction material is a locally quarried crystalline rock of pinkish hue, with occasional elaborate inlay and fair decoration.

Pilgrim trade is easily the chief business of Mecca, Medina, and Jidda, the Red Sea port by way of which nine-tenths of the worshiping tourists now travel. The two shrine cities each have sacred areas where unbelievers are not welcome and subject to trespassing fines or jail terms.

Date growing is the second industry around Medina's oasis, which is larger than Mecca's and can support more population. Under Turkish rule prior to World War I, Medina counted 80,000 people and was the southern terminus of a railroad from the cities of present Jordan, Syria, Turkey, and Iraq to the north.

Not until Mohammed moved from Mecca to Medina, did his creed begin the expansion that now encompasses 250,000,000 followers.

Drug Given By Mouth Said To Relieve Pain in Cancer

A chemical compound which can be given by mouth is reported by seven New York doctors to be useful in bringing temporary relief to patients suffering from fatal cancer-like diseases of the white blood cells and tissues.

The oral use of triethylene melamine on 58 patients is described by Drs. David A. Karnofsky, J. H. Burchenal, George C. Armistead, Jr., Chester M. Southam, J. L. Bernstein, L. F. Craver, and Cornelius P. Rhoads. The doctors are all associated with the Memorial Center for Cancer and Allied Diseases, New York.

Triethylene melamine is a valuable addition to the small group of drugs now known to be effective in relieving pain in these types of disease, according to the doctors. This is due primarily to the fact that it can be given by mouth, releasing the patient from his dependence on a doctor for administration of the drug. All the other drugs, they point out, have to be injected intravenously, which almost always makes hospitalization necessary.

Clinical trials with the drug are now being widened to include a greater variety of tumerous conditions, they said.

Cleaning Up

In the Smithsonian Institution's laboratory of vertebrate paleontology, six tons of fossil bones belonging to the extinct gigantic ground sloth, Megatherium, are being cleaned and repaired. The skeletal remains of this grotesque animal were collected in western Panama by Dr. C. Lewis Gazin, curator of vertebrate paleontology of the U. S. National Museum, assisted by Dr. Theodore E. White, paleontologist of the Smithsonian's River Basin Surveys. The Smithsonian Institution paleontologists will attempt to reconstruct for exhibition in Washington a complete skeleton of the giant sloth. A large part of the collection will be returned to Panama for exhibition there.

Uncle Sam Says

Having trouble what to get Mary, Johnny or Joe for Christmas? Well, folks, it's not too difficult. Just walk into your nearest bank or Post Office, and one of the finest gifts in the world can be purchased for any or all of them. It's a U. S. Defense Bond, of course, because Defense Bonds grow more valuable every year. That's why you should buy bonds regularly through the Payroll Savings Plan where you work, or the Bond-A-Month Plan where you bank. It's the road to economic security through systematic saving.

U. S. Treasury Department

AVERAGE PUPIL COST FOR VA. SCHOOLS

The average expenditure per child for public education in Virginia, 1950-51, from both state and local funds, exclusive of debt service and capital outlay, was $144.40, as compared with $134.22 for 1949-50.

Life Insurance Funds Going To Nation's Defense Plants

Life insurance funds are moving to the aid of the defense activities of the country in increasing volume, and loans made by the life insurance companies in support of the defense program may reach $3,500,000,000 for 1951, according to the Institute of Life Insurance.

"In keeping with the usual policy of directing new funds into channels where they may be most useful for the national economy, the current trend in life insurance investments is towards meeting the capital needs of the preparedness program," Holcar J. Johnson, Institute president commented. "This is in line with the voluntary credit restraint program under which defense needs have precedence over all other elements in the economy. Defense financing now accounts for the greater part of the life insurance company placement of policyholder funds in business and industry."

More than $1,000,000,000 has been loaned by the life insurance companies so far this year to defense plants and indications are that a like amount may be loaned in the remaining months of the year.

In addition; some $200,000,000 has this year been invested in loans to utility companies and railroads, which are basically involved in all defense activities. This amount may be nearly doubled by the end of the year. Thus, the total of financing made available during the entire year for defense industries or defense-supporting activities may come to $3,500,000,000.

The loans for defense or defense-supporting purposes represent two-thirds of all loans made in the first six months by the life companies to business and industrial concerns, and the ratio has been increasing since mid-year.

Forming Pearls

Although some pearls are formed in fresh-water clams and oysters, the most valuable come from the marine pearl oysters of eastern Asia. They occur when some foreign object—perhaps a tiny grain of sand—gets between the shell and the body. The animal then secretes around the object successive layers of a material called nacre, which consists of calcium carbonate. This is the same material as the "mother of pearl" lining of the shell. The Japanese make "culture" pearls by deliberately introducing small particles of graphite into the oyster and keeping it for several years as the pearl is formed.

Infrared Rays

Infrared rays are similar to rays of visible light, except that the length of their waves is greater than those of red light, which are about 1/40,000th of an inch and are the longest that the eye can detect. The longest infrared waves are about 1/55th of an inch long. Any hot object—the Sun, an open fire, a red hot poker, a warm radiator, an electric lamp, etc.—sends out infrared radiation, often with visible rays as well. Special electric lamps to generate these rays, used for applying heat, have a filament which operates at a lower temperature than is used in one designed mainly for purposes of illumination.

The national average for 1950-51 was $206.20. Only five cities and one county in Virginia spent as much per child as the average expenditure for the nation. The counties averaged an expenditure during 1950-51 of $130.12, which was $57.- 12 less than the $187.24 expenditure for the cities. Arlington County with an expenditure of $234.13 spent approximately three times as much per child as Tazewell County whose expenditure was $80.57.

The five cities highest in expenditure were: Falls Church, $273.39; Harrisonburg, $257.34; Alexandria, $213.95; Richmond, $213.23; and Norfolk, $206.57. The lowest five were: Buena Vista, $101.58; Suffolk, $141.42; Winchester, $141.46; Bristol, $143.54 and Portsmouth, $145.- 07.

The five counties highest in expenditure were: Arlington, $234.- 13; Bath, $173.66; Prince William, $172.44; Prince George, $169.77- and Fluvanna, $168.76. The lowest five were: Tazewell, $80.57; Floyd, $80.80; Buchanan, $84.25; Dickenson, $86.09, and Lee, $86.97.

The figure for Appomattox County was $151.15. This was up from the $133.74 of 1949-50.

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Gladstone

Gladstone, Dec. 26.- Mr. and Ashby T. Atkinson and children, Richmond, who have been with Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Payne and ily, have returned home.

Mr. and Mrs. James Sloan spending the week in Williamsburg with their son, Dr. J. G. Sloan his family.

Miss Evelyn Brown, of Waynton is visiting her parents, Mr. Mrs. O. L. Brown.

Miss Lacy Greaver has returned to Richmond after visiting her ents, Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Greaver.

Mr. and Mrs. Hope C. Christian Jr., of Richmond are visiting with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. Christian.

Mrs. D. M. Harris, of Spring is visiting relatives here.

Maryland and Tennessee is in Sugar Bowl for the top football game of New Year's day.

Appomattox is a growing town.